

Washington, DC – Today, Congressman Earl Blumenauer issued the following statement in response to the transportation and infrastructure priorities outlined as part of the transportation reauthorization proposal in the President's budget:

"I am pleased to see the President recognize that long-term savings require certain investments in our infrastructure now. To get our economy moving again, we must invest in our roads, bridges and railways to rebuild and renew our country and put Americans back to work.

In particular, I am pleased that the six-year transportation reauthorization represents a significant increase in transportation funding. Our infrastructure needs have been ignored for far too long, but the President's budget is an initial but important recognition that we need to fundamentally change and improve the way we fund these much-needed projects.

The budget also takes a step in the right direction by creating new livability grant and incentive programs. These measures will encourage states and communities to give people choices about how they get to work, to school and around town; choices which often help them save money and reduce our dependence on foreign oil.

It is also heartening to hear the President commit to working with Congress to ensure that funding increases for surface transportation do not increase the deficit. This was a recommendation made by the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform, and it is a common sense acknowledgement that we must find revenue sources to fund our urgent transportation priorities. I look forward to working with the President to find bipartisan solutions to our infrastructure funding needs.

I hope this will be the start of a rational conversation that focuses on renewing the foundation of our economic prosperity rather than blindly cutting the budget at every turn. Investing now in rebuilding our infrastructure will create jobs and save money over the long term."